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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/836,475	04/18/2001	Keiji Sato	35.C15298	8812

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EXAMINER

DESIR, JEAN WICEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2614

7

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/836,475

Applicant(s)

SATO, KEIJI

Examiner

Jean W. Désir

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 July 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6 .

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 24 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because the title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Garr et al (US 5,341,166).

Claim 1:

Garr discloses:

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"receiving means (Fig. 2 item 26) for receiving a remote control signal transmitted from a remote controller (Fig. 2 item 28);
"judgment means (Fig. 2 items 28, 26) judging an external equipment (Fig. 2 item 16 for instance) corresponding to the remote control signal"; and
"transmitting means (see the transmitting means which links items 26 and 16 for instance) for transmitting control data corresponding to the remote control signal to the external equipment judged".

Claim 4 is disclosed, see Fig. 2 item 20.

Claim 5:

Garr discloses:

"selection means for selecting an external equipment", see Fig. 2 items 28, 26, col. 7 lines 56-58;
"receiving means (Fig. 2 item 26) for receiving a remote control signal transmitted from a remote controller (Fig. 2 item 28);
"transmitting means (see the transmitting means which links items 26 and 16 for instance) for transmitting control data corresponding to the remote control signal to the external equipment selected".

Claim 8 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 4.

Claim 9 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 12 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 4.

Claim 13 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 5.

Claim 16 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garr et al (US 5,341,166) in view of Osakabe (US 6,400,280).

Claim 2:

Garr does not explicitly say that the transmitting means is a digital interface based on the IEEE 1394-1995 standard as claimed in claim 2. However, transmitting means based on the IEEE 1394 interface is very well known in the art (as evidence see Osakabe at Fig. 3 and col. 5 lines 1-11) as a means of providing high-speed interconnection between devices and low-cost implementation. Thus, Garr in view of Osakabe would have rendered the claimed invention obvious; an artisan would be motivated to combine the references to arrive at the claimed invention; and this combination would result in low-cost implementation and high-speed interconnection. Therefore, the claimed invention would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Claim 3 is disclosed in view of the above combination, see Osakabe at Fig. 3 item 23.

Claims 6, 7 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 2, 3.

Claims 10, 11 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 2, 3.

Claims 14, 15 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 2, 3.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Jean W. Désir** whose telephone number is (703) 308-9571.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John W. Miller**, can be reached at (703) 305-4795.

8. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

9. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

JWD
Aug. 28, 03

MICHAEL H. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER